



JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE REQUESTS \$1 MILLION TO RESTORE DAY CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Workforce Investment Board funds could restore over 705 slots and provide daycare to families living at 140% of poverty level, County continues other efforts to restore additional slots

County Executive Jack Doyle today announced he is requesting \$1 million from the Workforce Investment Board to restore over 705 subsidized, income eligible day care slots for families living at 140% or below the poverty level. The additional funds would allow the County to continue subsidies slated to end March 1. The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) will consider the request at its meeting on Wednesday February 13.

"I am deeply saddened about the possibility of eliminating day care subsidies for families fighting to make the transition from welfare to work. I have worked diligently with our Day Care Collaborative throughout the tenure of my administration to expand such programs," said Doyle. "Therefore, I have been exploring every avenue to preserve the current level of daycare funding in our community, and I'm hopeful that funding will be available through the WIB."

Due to a projected shortfall of \$8 million in anticipated state revenue, Doyle announced earlier this year that the County would no longer be able to provide subsidized, income eligible day care slots for families living above 125% of the poverty level.

The Doyle Administration has been working with Day Care providers in the community since late last year to address this revenue shortfall. As a result, local providers have voluntarily agreed to defer an upcoming market rate increase until 2003. In addition, the Department of Social Services has identified an opportunity to make up additional funds through a modest increase in the fees collected from some participating parents (an average payment of \$25 would increase to \$30).

If the funds from the WIB become available, coupled with the voluntary waiver of the market rate increase and the modest fee increase, the County anticipates restoring over 705 slots to serve families living at 140% of the poverty level and below.

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"I am pleased that there is a strong possibility of restoring some daycare for a significant number of families that would be affected by a reduction in subsidies," stated Doyle. "It is my sincere hope that the WIB can provides us with these needed funds and I thank them for considering this request."

The County has identified \$1 million in Federal Workforce Investment Act funds that could potentially be utilized to fund subsidized, income eligible day care.

The WIB is a joint County-City partnership created to oversee workforce development efforts in Monroe County. It receives funding from the United States Department of Labor and the New York State Department of Labor.

Doyle stated that the County has taken additional steps with the State to restore day care slots. The County Department of Social Services has applied to the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for permission to use "maintenance of effort" funds, and is seeking guarantees from the State to ensure that day care funding for 2002 will remain at 2001 funding levels. Positive action by the State on these requests would allow the County to raise eligibility levels for families seeking subsidized day care.

An additional \$3.3 million recently secured from the State was applied to the \$5 million shortfall in daycare funding for 2001, and consequently cannot be used to provide services in 2002.

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